

There was a time when the FCC's diligent and earnest enforcement of broadcasting standards would have precluded a stunt like the one being performed by Sinclair Broadcasting. I sincerely hope to see accountability and due diligence applied to cases as egregious as this one.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

You possess the power to ensure that the airwaves are used for the good of the nation. Don't relax your guard and abdicate what is legally your responsibility to the public. Please exercise that initiative now to prevent this flaunting of the spirit of radio (and television). Thank you.